

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06 SPC-03

SAM-01 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 AEC-11 NSF-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 FPC-01

DRC-01 /200 W

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R 051955Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5236

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

DEPT ALSO PASS USDOC/AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, AR

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE LONG RANGE ENERGY INTERESTS

1. SCIATT AND ECOM OFFICER RECENTLY CALLED ON SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, HERMINIO SBARRA (MINISTRY OF ECONOMY) FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT, INITIATING MARKET SURVEY, AND GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON ON ENERGY MATTERS.

2. SCIATT EXPRESSED TO SBARRA IDEA THAT FOLLOWING NATURAL URANIUM-D2O REACTOR LINE WOULD LEAD TO OVER-DEPENDENCE OF ARGENTINA ON ONE SUPPLIER (AECL) WITH LIKELY HIGHER COSTS THAN
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COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH OPEN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE

BIDDING. HE NOTED THAT VERY FEW COUNTRIES IN WORLD FOLLOWING THIS PARTICULAR LINE. SBARRA NOTED RESPONSIBILITY OF CNEA FOR NUCLEAR PLANTS, BUT LATER INCLUDED NUCLEAR ENERGY AMONG TOPICS ON WHICH HE COULD USE ADDITIONAL DATA. SBARRA INDICATED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE MADE THIS YEAR ON NEXT ARGENTINE NUCLEAR PLANT, EITHER 2ND UNIT FOR ATUCHA, OR BAHIA BLANCA.

3. ON SUBJECT OF JOINT HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON PARANA RIVER, SBARRA, AN ENGINEER, WAS CONFIDENT THAT PROBLEMS OF COMPATIBILITY WOULD BE ADEQUATELY RESOLVED, PARTICULARLY SINCE PARAGUAY IS A PARTY TO ITAIPU, CORPUS, AND YACYRETA-APIPE.

4. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RUMORED CREATION OF A SINGLE ELECTRIC POWER ORGANIZATION FOR ARGENTINA, SBARRA INDICATED THAT THE PLAN FOR THIS IS ALMOST FINISHED.

5. SBARRA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES, AND THE SCIATT UNDERTOOK TO SUPPLY SOME SUCH INFO PERIODICALLY:

- A. COAL GASIFICATION (ARGENTINA HAS LIGNITE DEPOSITS)
- B. GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.
- C. WIND POWER (SOME REGIONS, E.G., PATAGONIA, ARE VERY WINDY).
- D. NUCLEAR POWER.
- E. US ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES.

6. IN PARTICULAR, SBARRA REQUESTED INFO ON THE HYGAS COAL GASIFICATION PROCESS, DEVELOPED AT THE INSTITUTE OF GAS TECHNOLOGY (CHICAGO?). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LITERATURE DEPT CAN PROVIDE ON THIS.

7. COMMENT: MAJOR THRUST OF ARGENTINA'S FUTURE ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT APPEARS TO BE IN HYDRO, SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME NUCLEAR PLANTS. NONETHELESS, SOME SIGNIFICANT INTEREST FOR LOCAL APPLICATIONS IN COAL GASIFICATION, GEOTHERMAL, AND WIND POWER COULD DEVELOP.

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